



The official website of the Governor of Massachusetts

Governor
Deval Patrick



in Governor's
Office

SEARCH

The Administration

Constituent Services

Press Office

Agenda

Legislation &
Executive Orders

Get Involved

[Home](#) > [Press Office](#) > [Press Releases](#) >

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Media Contact

Kyle Sullivan
Cyndi Roy
Becky Deusser
617-725-4025

For Immediate release - August 15, 2007

GOVERNOR PATRICK TAPS JOSEPH C. CARTER TO LEAD MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD

GOVERNOR PATRICK TAPS JOSEPH C. CARTER TO LEAD MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD

BOSTON-Wednesday, August 15, 2007-Governor Deval Patrick today announced the selection of Brigadier General Joseph C. Carter as the next Adjutant General (TAG) of the Massachusetts National Guard.

General Carter, who currently serves as an Assistant Adjutant General of the Guard and Chief of the MBTA's Transit Police Department, will assume command of the Massachusetts National Guard on September 21, 2007. With his appointment to the position of TAG, General Carter will become the first African-American appointed to the post in the Massachusetts National Guard's 370-year history.

"I am pleased that Brigadier General Carter has agreed to continue his service to the Commonwealth as The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard," Governor Patrick said. "The people of Massachusetts stand to benefit greatly from General Carter's vast experience as a soldier, a police officer, a manager and a public safety leader. I am confident he will follow the tremendous leadership example set by outgoing Adjutant General Oliver Mason."

As TAG, General Carter will serve as the Governor's senior military advisor and will command the Massachusetts National Guard, which has more than 6,000 army and air guard soldiers. While the primary mission of the Massachusetts National Guard is to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth in times of natural disaster and civil emergency, the Guard also supports the Department of Defense in federal military missions.

Currently, more than 1658 members of the Massachusetts National Guard are deployed overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and other areas.

"It is an honor to be given the opportunity to serve as The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard and I look forward to the responsibilities and challenges that the position will bring," said General Carter. "The Massachusetts National Guard is one of the oldest military institutions in our country and to this day serves a critical role in maintaining the safety and security of the citizens of the Commonwealth. I will do everything in my power to ensure that our National Guard maintains its long-standing tradition of excellence while constantly searching for ways to improve."

Since 2003, General Carter has served as Chief of Police of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Transit Police Department. In that position, General Carter directly supervised 276 sworn personnel responsible for public safety of the Authority's public transportation network within 175 cities and towns. He also currently serves as elected President of the 21,000 member International Association of Chiefs of Police, the nation's largest professional organization of police executives. Preceding his appointment to the MBTA, he served for nearly five years as Chief of the Oak Bluffs Police Department on Martha's Vineyard. Before that, he was a member of the Boston Police Department for 20 years, starting as a patrol officer in 1978 and achieving the ranks of Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, Chief of Staff, and Superintendent.

General Carter entered the Massachusetts Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves in January 1974 and rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant prior to receiving his commission as a second Lieutenant at the Massachusetts Military Academy in 1979. During his military career, he has served in several key positions including: J-5 (Strategic Plans & International Affairs); Division Chief of Intelligence and Security (I & S); Assistant/Acting Division Chief I & S; Military Intelligence Officer; Tactical Surveillance Officer; MP Battalion S-4; MP Company Commander; MP Platoon Leader; Infantry Detachment Commander; and Infantry Platoon Leader. General Carter was promoted to Brigadier General in 2006.

General Carter graduated from the US Army War College in 2002 with a Master of Strategic Studies degree. He also holds a Bachelors degree in organizational behavior and management from Lesley College and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

Administration from Atlanta University.

General Carter is a member of the U.S. Department of Justice's Anti-Terrorism and Joint-Terrorism Task Force, a life member of the First Corps of Cadets and a life member of the NAACP in addition to a number of other civic and military organizations.

- 30 -